

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 SCCT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03

CU-02 /070 W

----- 090873

O P 070930Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 4866

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAUGE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (HUNTER SMITH)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS , JUNE 07 MEETING WITH VAGNI

REF A STATE 132178 B. DAR 1930 .: STATE 132337 D. DAR 1952

1. STEINER, MACFARLANE AND I, IN MEETING WITH FATHER VAGNI AT EMBASSY MORNING OF JUNE 07 BRIEFED HIM FULLY ON HIS EXPANDED ROLE AS POSSIBLE INTERMEDIARY AS WELL AS INITIAL CONTACT MAN. VAGNI WAS PREPARED AND WILLING TO SERVE IN BOTH CAPACITIES. TO THAT END, HE PLANS TO LEAVE UVIRA 0800Z RPT 088Z JUNE 08, FOR FIZI AND ONCE THERE TO SEEK TO MAKE CONTACT WITH PRP REPRESENTATIVES IN ACCORDANCE TERMS OUTLINED REF A.

2. VAGNI IS CLEAR ON DISTINCTION BETWEEN INITIAL CONTACT POINT, WHICH HE THINKS COULD BE ALMOST ANYWHERE IN THE FIZI AREA, AND AGREEMENT ON LOCALE FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS, WHICH WILL HAVE TO REPRESENT GUARANTEES FO SECURITY FOR ALL CONCERNED. HE APPEARS TO THINK BUJUMBURA OR OTHER SITE IN BURUNDI MOST LIKELY, BUT
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DOES NOT EXCLUDE EITHER KIGOMA OR SOME POINT IN REBEL-

HELD ZAIRE TERRITORY.

3. STEINER, MACFARLANE AND I STILL PLAN TO TRAVEL TO UVIRA MORNING OF JUNE 08, LEAVING BUJUMBURA APPROXIMATELY 0600Z RPT 0600Z AND MEET WITH VAGNI PRIOR HIS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE. THIS WILL PROVIDE MEANS OF UPDATING VAGNI ON MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND, IF REQUIRED, EFFECTING FURTHER DELAY IN MISSION. HOWEVER, WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT GOZ ASSURANCES WILL HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN TIME AND TRANSMITTED TO US. WOULD NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT VAGNI'S NAME HAS ALREADY BEEN FLOATED (REF B) AND MAY BY NOW BE KNOWN TO OTHER SIDE.

4. QUESTION INEVITABLY ARISES WHETHER WE SHOULD SUSPEND VAGNI EFFORTS AND PURSUE SOLE TRACK VIA KIGOMA, OUR INCLINATION IS NOT RPT NOT TO DO SO. ALTHOUGH KIGOMA CONTACT IS PROMISING AND APPARENT TANGOV SUPPORT IS ENCOURAGING (REF D), WE HAVE NO CLUE YET TO PRP REACTION TO THAT CHANNEL, NOR DO WE HAVE SAME CONFIDENCE IN INTERMEDIARY AS WE WOULD HAVE IN VAGNI. IT CANNOT HURT TO HAVE TWO CONTACT EFFORTS IN MOTION, WHICH WILL EXPAND REBEL OPTIONS FOR DIALOGUE, ESPECIALLY SINCE BOTH VAGNI AND KIGOMA CONTACT KNOW OF EACH OTHERS INVOLVEMENT.

5. WHEN GOZ HAS GIVEN US FINAL GO-AHEAD ON ACTIVITY IN ZAIRE, WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF GOZ COULD SO OFFICIALLY NOTIFY BURUNDI GOVT IN KINSHASA OR, PREFERABLY, BUJUMBURA.

6. KINSHASA 4924 JUST RECEIVED, AND WE WILL PROCEED AS PLANNED, UNLESS DEPARTMENT DISAGREES WITH OUR ANALYSIS IN PARA 04. ACTION IN PARA 5 IS MUCH NEEDED AS GRB IS BEING STICKY ON STEINER AND MACFARLANE VISAS.

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